



FireWatch

ASSEMBLYMEMBER PEDRO NAVA, CHAIR
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY SERVICES
AND
HOMELAND SECURITY



October 23, 2007

General Report:

There are 16 active fires in Southern California. The priority for fighting fires is the Witch, Santiago, Rice, Harris, Ranch, Buckweed, Canyon, and Magic Fires.

- There are 8,000 firefighters currently carrying out fire suppression, and 1,000 engines deployed in So Cal.
- Every available Federal C-130 airtanker is in or en-route to California.
- 6 Air National Guard MAC units (tankers specially fit with equipment to drop fire retardant) will arrive between 2pm and 4pm today for use.
- 7 National Guard helicopters (5 from CA and 2 from Nevada) are in use.
- 2 Navy and 2 Marine helicopters are also helping in fire suppression.
- The CA National Guard is working with OES for any additional need. There are 1520 personnel in San Diego currently. 15,000 Guardsmen are available.
- Over 500,000 evacuees

Federal Declaration:

A federal declaration (FEMA-3279-EM) was received on October 23, 2007. The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is authorized to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and protect public health, safety, and property, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the designated areas. Specifically, FEMA is authorized to provide emergency protective measures (Category B), including direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program, at 75 percent Federal funding. This assistance is for the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. Additional designations may be made at a later date after further evaluation.

Utilities:

CAL ISO – CAL ISO is officially requesting that the San Diego area go to power conservation measures, they are not implementing blackouts at this time. Due to lines damaged or threatened, they declared a "Transmission Line Emergency"; however, there is no effect to the power grid.

• **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power:** Currently only 1,000 customers without power.

Two small interlines in Inyo that are being repaired, but they have increased two of their power plants in Castaic to handle any further disruptions.

• **San Diego Gas & Electric Co:** Approximately 30,000 customers without power, from 71 outages, all fire related. There is no ETA of restoration.

• **Southern California Edison:** There are 15,000 customers with out power. There is damage reported to numerous poles and transformers.

Extended Outages – Over 24 hours

50 communities show customers off for longer than 24 hours affecting 1,915 customers. Top areas include: San Jacinto (460), San Bernardino (205), Santa Ana (185), Moorpark (130), Fontana (120), Idyllwild (115), Upland (90), Malibu (70), Riverside (50), Beaumont (45), Garden Grove (35), Costa Mesa (30), Rialto, Orange, Santa Paula & Hemet (25 each), Mira Loma & Santa Clarita (20 each).

Extended outages – Over 36 hours

14 communities show customers off for longer than 48 hours affecting 175 customers. Top areas include: Malibu (55), Rialto & Fontana (20 each), Fillmore (15), Riverside, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks (10 each), Beaumont, Rubidoux, Mira Loma, Orange, Fullerton, Camarillo & Simi Valley (5 each).

LINKS TO RESOURCES:

California Department of Insurance
<http://www.insurance.ca.gov>

CalTrans Highway Conditions
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/roadinfo/>

Firefighting Resources of California
Organized for Potential Emergencies -
FIRESCOPE
<http://www.firescope.org>

California Department of Forestry and
Fire Protection - CAL FIRE
<http://www.fire.ca.gov>

National Interagency Fire Center
<http://www.nifc.gov>

National Interagency Coordination
Center
<http://www.nifc.gov/news/nicc.html>

National Fire News
http://www.nifc.gov/fire_info/nfn.htm

Fire weather from the National Weather
Service
<http://fire.boi.noaa.gov/>

NOAAWatch page for weather, fire and
other information
<http://www.noaawatch.gov>

Fire information and links from the US
Forest Service
<http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/reports.shtml>

San Diego Humane Society & SPCA
<http://www.sdhumane.org>

COUNTY FIRE INFORMATION:

Los Angeles <http://lacounty.info/>
**Los Angeles County Office of Emergency
Management**
1275 N. Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063
(323) 980-2261

Orange <http://www.oc.ca.gov/>
Orange County Office of Emergency Services
2644 Santiago Canyon Road
Silverado, CA 92676
(714) 628-7055

Riverside
http://www.countyofriverside.us/portal/page?_pageid=133,5844549&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL
**Riverside County Office of Emergency
Services**
4080 Lemon Street, Suite 8
Riverside, CA 92502-1412
(951) 955-4700

Santa Barbara
<http://www.countyofsb.org/index.asp>
**Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency
Services**
105 East Anapamu Street #102
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-681-5526

San Bernardino <http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/evocdata.asp>
**San Bernardino County Office of Emergency
Services**
1743 W. Miro Way
Rialto, CA 92376
(909) 356-3998

Ventura <http://www.vcsd.org/oes/fire.html>
Ventura County Office of Emergency Services
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
Fire Hotline: (805) 388-4276

San Diego <http://www.sdcountyemergency.com/>
**San Diego County Office of Emergency
Services**
5555 Overland Avenue Building 19
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 565-3490

CANYON FIRE, MALIBU, LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 3,800

Percent Contained: 8%

Structures: 900 threatened; 14 damaged; 8 destroyed

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07; FMAG 10/21/07

The Canyon Fire, a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) fire, started on Malibu Canyon Road and Pacific Coast Highway as a result of hot wires and is burning towards the Pacific Ocean.

*A Unified Command structure has been established with Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Animal Control, and State Park Police.

*Pepperdine University Dorm Residents are sheltering in place at this time at the Firestone Field House.

*Two designated evacuation centers have been established: Zuma Beach and the Firestone Field House. Pierce College in Woodland Hills is being used as a large animal evacuation center. A shelter has been established at the Agoura Hills High School. Most residents appear to be voluntarily evacuating and not utilizing the evacuation centers.

*Two commercial structures, five residences and one church have been destroyed; four commercial structures and nine residences have been damaged including the Malibu Presbyterian Church Historic Kashan Castle.

*There are several roads closures in the area, including Malibu Canyon between Mulholland and Pacific Coast Highway (PCH), and the PCH between Kanan Dune Road and Topanga Canyon Road.

*The Los Angeles County EOC is activated and the Southern Region EOC is activated along with the State Emergency Operations Center.

*A Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) was requested and approved.

*The Eagle Rock to Vincent is 230 KV and Santa Clara Parde 230 KV local distribution lines continue to be down however, the power grid is not affected.

RANCH FIRE, CASTAIC, LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 54,518

Percent Contained: 10%

Structures: 600 threatened; 0 damaged; 7 destroyed

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07; FMAG 10/22/07

The Ranch Fire, a Federal Responsibility Fire, is located at Old Templin Hwy at Old Golden State Hwy, just west of Interstate 5 (I-5), Castaic, Los Angeles County.

*Los Angeles Department of Water and Power reports 7,500 customers without power.

*A Type 1 Federal Command Team assumed command during the morning of 10/22/07.

*The City of Piru has been evacuated.

*The northeast corner of the Community of Fillmore, east of 4th Street and north of Center, is under a precautionary evacuation.

*The American Red Cross (ARC) has a shelter in Fillmore at the Veterans Center, 511 2nd Street and no one had entered the shelter as of the morning of 10/22/07.

*The Los Angeles County EOC is activated and the Southern Region EOC is activated along with the State Emergency Operations Center.

*A FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant was approved on October 22, 2007.

* Although not effected, this fire remains close to the Pardee-Santa Clara and Santa Clara-Vincent 220kV lines.

SESSION FIRE, LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 35
Percent Contained: 0%
Structures: 85 threatened
State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07

The Session Fire is located in the in Porter Ranch area of Los Angeles County. The fire is at 35 acres.
*There are no power lines affected and no evacuations at this time.

SEDGWICK FIRE, SANTA BARBARA COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 710
Percent Contained: 100%
Structures: 0 threatened
State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07.

The Sedgwick Fire, a Local and Federal Responsibility Fire, is burning in the Figueroa Mountain area of the Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County.

*The fire is in Unified Command.
*Per the Santa Barbara County Operational Area, they have activated their EOC and issued an evacuation warning for the Woodstock area.

HARRIS FIRE , SAN DIEGO COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 70,000
Percent Contained: 5%
Structures: 600 threatened
State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07; FMAG 10/22/07.

The Harris Fire, a State Responsibility Fire, is burning toward the town of Tecate at the Mexico Border.

*The cause is under investigation.
*Mandatory evacuations are in place for the Potrero area. Reverse 9-1-1 was used to notify 760 homes of the fire.
*The San Diego Sheriff conducted mandatory evacuations of Tecate on the U.S. side and Barratt Junction, Dulzura, Potrero area, and Emory Road and has issued an advisory evacuation for north of 78, south of Cleveland National Forest.
*CalFire reports that the fire has burned through travel routes used by undocumented immigrants. Several people have sustained burn injuries and have been transported to local area hospitals. A coordinated effort by the San Diego Sheriffs Department, U.S. Border Patrol and CalFire personnel is underway conducting search and rescue operations. It is estimated that this effort will continue through the next several days.
*Hwy 78 is closed at Santa Isabel and various other road closures in the area.
*Steele Canyon High School is a shelter for people and small animals.
*San Diego Humane Society set up a shelter at Jamul Fire Station for large animals.
*Two structures have been lost and due to the wind activity, there is a potential for additional structure loss.
*There has been one civilian fatality reported at this time and one civilian injury.
*San Diego has proclaimed a local emergency.
*FMAG was granted for this fire on 10/22/07.

WITCH FIRE, SAN DIEGO COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 145,000

Percent Contained: 0%

Structures: 6,800 threatened; 375 damaged; 650 destroyed

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07; FMAG 10/22/07

*The evacuation center is Poway High School located at 15500 Espola Road.

*Evacuations are in process for the town of Ramona and surrounding neighborhood on the north & east side of Ramona. Approximately 36,000 people have been evacuated in Ramona.

*The southern edge of fire is near San Diego County Estates and mandatory evacuations are in progress.

*The fire is also moving toward the direction of Poway and Lakeside.

*California Command Team 10 took over the fire 0600 hours on 10/22/07.

*The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) reports San Diego County EOC advised that they have 2 horse shelters open at this time: 1) the Horse Park Center (East of Hwy 5 in Del Mar), which can hold up to 400 horses; and 2) the San Diego Fairgrounds, which will have stalls available with an unknown capacity at this time.

*San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) reports about 378 homes without power in the Santa Isabel area and 12 homes without power in Potrero area.

*The cause is under investigation.

*FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant was requested and approved.

*Per CAISO, line 13825 and 13804 were relayed. There is a concern because it could limit the output of Encina 138 bus.

NIGHTSKY INCIDENT, VENTURA COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 35

Percent Contained: 20%

Structures: 230 threatened

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07

The Night Sky Incident, a Local Responsibility Area Fire, in Ventura County is currently at 30 acres, 25% contained, with spotty containment.

*Mop up was expected by 1800 hrs on 10/22/07.

OCTOBER INCIDENT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 25

Percent Contained: 100%

Structures: 85 threatened

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07

The October Incident, a Local Responsibility Fire is located in the Santa Clarita and Hwy 14 area.

*There are no reports of injuries or structures damaged.

BUCKWEED FIRE, LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 37,812

Percent Contained: 27%

Structures: 55,400 threatened; 3 damaged; 32 destroyed

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07

The Buckweed Fire is located in the area of Mint Canyon Road and Sierra Highway. This is a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) fire.

*There are mandatory evacuation orders underway for the Agua Dulce and Acton Communities.

*Currently, 800 people have been evacuated along with 3,800 homes under mandatory evacuation orders for Forest Park Avenue.

*Evacuation centers have been opened at the Quartz Hills High School and the Saugus High School.

*Per the OES Southern Duty Officer (SDO), there are mandatory evacuations in place for Bokay Canyon at Vasquez Canyon and Spunkey Canyon and Francisquito at Copper Canyon and Spunkey Canyon.

*The Saugus High School shelter is currently occupied by 80 people, and the Golden Valley High School has 120 occupants.

*Road closures are currently in effect for Sierra Hwy from Soledad Canyon to Davenport due to down power lines.

*The bridge at Vasquez and Bokay Canyon road has been destroyed.

*There have been a total of 3 civilians and 1 firefighter injured at this time.

*There is a report of 20 structures burned and numerous others threatened.

*There are currently 900 residences without power.

* The Pardee-Vincent, Santa Clara-Vincent and Eagle Rock-Pardee 220KV lines continue to be threatened.

*FMAG was requested and approved.

SIERRA FIRE, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 300

Percent Contained: 100%

Structures: n/a

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07

The Sierra Fire, a Local Responsibility Fire, is in the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County. *The fire has consumed 300 acres and 100 percent contained at this time.

*There were voluntary evacuations to 500 residents.

*There are no reports of injuries or structures damaged at this time.

ROCA FIRE, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Acres Burned: 269

Percent Contained: 100%

Structures: 300 threatened; 0 damaged; 2 destroyed

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07

The Roca Fire, a State Responsibility Fire, is located in the Anza area of Riverside County and threatens numerous structures in the Lake Riverside and Aquanga areas.

*Per the OES Southern Duty Officer (SDO), Riverside County OES advised that there are mandatory evacuation orders issued for the SKP Trailer Park.

*The Temecula Community Center at 3085 Rancho Vista Rd in Temecula is providing temporary shelter.

SANTIAGO FIRE, IRVINE, ORANGE COUNTY:

Percent Contained: 30%

Evacuations: 15

Structures: 3,650 threatened; 12 damaged; 8 destroyed

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07

The Santiago Fire, a Local Responsibility fire, is located Black Star Canyon, Silverado Canyon Road and Santiago Canyon Road east of Hwy 241 near Irvine with a great potential for spreading due to the high fuel density.

*It jumped Highway 241 (Toll Road) and is moving towards Irvine.

*Structures are threatened in the City of Irvine.

*The fire is expected to move south which will substantially reduce the structure threat.

*CalFire is the lead fire agency for this fire.

*Per the OES Southern Duty Officer (SDO), voluntary evacuations have been ordered for the areas of Northeast Culver at Portola, and Small Grove in the City of Irvine.

*This area is sparsely populated and the approximate number of voluntary evacuees is 15.

*An evacuation center has been established at the Lakeview Senior Center in the City of Irvine.

*The American Red Cross is currently staffing the facility and there are currently no occupants.

The Orange County Fairgrounds has been opened to handle horse evacuations only.

*The Orange County Operations Area has established a hotline at 714-628-7085.

*Road Closures are currently in place at Portola at San Canyon and the 241 Toll Road, Jamboree at Chapman and Portola, The 261 Toll Road at the 241 Toll Road and Portola, Santiago Canyon at Jamboree and El Toro Road and Irvine Blvd Northbound Intersections, Jeffrey to Modjeska. *There will be school closures on 10/23/07 for the Canyon View Elementary, and Northwood High School.

*The Orange County Healthcare Agency DOC is also activated.

* A FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant was requested and approved.

* The Songs-Serrano, and Chino-Viejo 220kV lines continue to be threatened. These lines were lost twice last night for 1 hour each time for both lines.

GRASS VALLEY INCIDENT. SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY :

Acres Burned: 75

Percent Contained: 0%

Structures:

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07; FMAG 10/22/07.

On 10/22/07 at 0730 hours, a new fire is reported in the Lake Arrowhead area of San Bernardino County.

*Evacuations are taking place at Deer Lodge and Brentwood area which is the north side of Lake Arrowhead.

*This incident is 5 miles from the Green Valley Incident and will be using the same shelter at Charles Hoffman Elementary School.

* Per San Bernardino Sheriff's Office, Hwy 189 is being closed to residents only.

* FMAG was requested and approved.

GREEN VALLEY INCIDENT, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY:

Acres Burned: 50

Percent Contained: 0%

Structures: n/a

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07

On 10/22/07 at 0830 hours, a new fire, the Green Valley Incident has been reported by San Bernardino County Fire.

*The location is Green Valley Road and Deep Creek Road in the community of Green Valley Lake.

*Mandatory evacuations of Green Valley Lake are taking place.

*This incident is 5 miles from the Grass Valley Fire and will be using the same shelter at Charles Hoffman Elementary School.

CORONADO HILLS FIRE, SAN DIEGO COUNTY (as of 10/22/07):

Acres Burned: 300

Percent Contained: 0%

Evacuations: 1,000 residences

Structures: n/a

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07

On 10/21/07, a new fire, the Coronado Hills Fire began and may merge into the Witch Fire in the area of San Marcos.

*Multiple structures have been lost as the fire burns toward Carlsbad and the Pacific Ocean.

*Reverse 9-1-1 was used to notify residences of mandatory evacuations for Discovery Hills, Coronado Hills, and Ettebury Road.

*ARC has a shelter open for evacuees at Escondido High School, 1535 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92026.

RICE FIRE. SAN DIEGO COUNTY :

Acres Burned: 6,100

Percent Contained: 0%

Structures: 2,500 threatened; 30 damaged, 500 destroyed

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07; FMAG 10/22/07.

Per CalFire, the Rice Fire, a State Responsibility Area, is burning in the Rice Canyon area in north San Diego County.

*The cause is under investigation.

*Threatened communities include Rainbow Heights, Fallbrook and Oceanside.

*The fire has jumped Interstate 15 and State Route 395.

*Mandatory evacuations are in place for Fallbrook.

MAGIC INCIDENT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Acres Burned: 1,200

Percent Contained: unknown

Structures: 950 threatened

State/Federal Assistance Granted: Governor's Proclamation 10/21/07.

Per the OES Fire Duty Officer, a grass fire began in the area of Magic Mountain Parkway and Old Road on the South side of Hwy 126.

*There are no structures threatened.

*Los Angeles County Fire Department has multiple resources responding to this fire.

*Per CUEA. the Moorpark-Pardee 1,2, and 3 220KV lines continue to be threatened.

ROSA FIRE, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Acres Burned: 100 acres

Percent Contained: 0%

Structures: 100 threatened

State/Federal Assistance Granted: FMAG: 10/23/07

On 10/23/07 at 0005 hours, the Rosa Fire is currently at 100 acres and zero percent contained. The fire is burning near Temecula.

*Due to the rapid rate of spread, strong winds and poor access, there are numerous structures threatened.

*Evacuations are in progress.

*A FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant has been requested.